(b) skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labourers employed in these units;

(c) what is the distribution of these units, State-wise;

(d) whether the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 is causing any hardship to these industries; and is standing in the way of growth of this international acclaimed packing material;

(e) what is the estimated loss due to seepage and wastage of fertilisers and cement packaged in Jute Bags; and

(f) extra subsidy granted by Government to Fetilizer Industry for packing Urea compulsorily in Jute Bags instead of HDPE Bags?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) According to the information made available 1875 million HDPE/PP woven sacks are presently manufactured in the country per year in small and medium scale units. Around 50,000 workers consisting mainly semi-skilled and un-skilled are employed in these units. Out of only 500 woven sacks units spread all over the country Gujarat (97), Maharashtra (77), Tamilnadu (83), Karnataka (49) and Andhra Pradesh (44) account for 70 per cent of the total.

(d) No, Sir. The Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 is intended to ensure a fair share of market to both jute and woven sacks industries so that both can co-exist in a harmonious manner.

(e) In the case of Urea packaging there is no seepage and wastage from use of jute bags as it is invariably laminated with polythene film bonded with bitumen in jute cloth. As regards cement studies have established that if jute bag of correct specification is used seepage and wastage in minimal and almost identical with similar loss when it is packed in synthetic bags.

(f) Since the rates of HDPE bags and the jute bags go on changing from time to time, it is not possible to make an exact calculation of extra subsidy on this account on yearly basis. However, in the event of exclusive use of jute bags for packing urea production, there would be an estimated extra subsidy of Rs. 13.5 crores per annum based on July-September 1993 rates.

Norms to find cotton production

2245. SHRI VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms applied by Government to find out the total annual production of cotton in various states; and

(b) whether statistics in this regard are being prepared by only one institution or by several institutions, giving the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (b) The Government has constituted a Cotton Advisory Board to advise on matters pertaining to production, consumption and marketing of cotton. The Board also provides a forum for interaction between the cotton growers, cotton textile mill industry, cotton trade and Government.

Different agencies make an assessment of the cotton crop through their own field staff. The agencies making such assessment include the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, The Directorate of Cotton Development, Ministry of Agriculture, The Cotton Corporation of India, The All India Co-Operative Cotton Federation, The East India Cotton Association, the State Departments of Agriculture and the State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federations. All these agencies are represented in the C.A.B. Their assessments are considered and discussed and checked with the area under crop

and the productivity of cotton in each state. The most credible and realistic estimate in respect of each State arrived at is accepted in the meeting. The figures of ginning and pressing factories collected by the Trade Associations are also taken into account.

White Paper on Cotton Export

2246. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAMARAO ADIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a surplus of cotton bales for the current year;

(b) if so; the reason for banning the export of cotton;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ban is imposed due to the pressure of the mill owners;

(d) the manner in which the dissatisfaction among the cotton growers of Maharashtra will be ameliorated; and

(e) whether Government propose to bring out a white paper on cotton exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) During the current year the production of cotton is expected to be 125 lakh bales, while the consumption will also be of the same order. The Government have suspended the export of cotton as a temporary measure in view of the sharp increase in the prices of cotton, leading to extreme hardship to the handloom an powerloom sector. Government's endeavour is to strike a careful balance between the interests of the cotton growers on the one hand and that of the textiles; decentralised handloom and powerloom sector on the other.

(e) No, Sir.

12.00 NOON

I. Reported and Accounts of the National Housing Bank, New Drlhi and related papers.

II. Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Revenue) and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report and Accounts of the National Housing Bank, New Delhi, for the year ended the 30th June, 1993, 1993 together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts, under sub-section (5) of Section 40 of the National Housing Bank, Act, 1987. (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5476|94.

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:—

(1) GSR No. 27(E) dated the 18th January, 1994, regarding imposing an anti-dumpinng duty on the specified grades of Polyvinyl Chloride Resin imported from Brazil, Mexico, Republic of Korea and U.S.A.

(2) GSR No. 28(E) dated the 18th January, 1994, seeking to exempt goods imported by 100% Export Oriented Units or Units working in the Export Processing Zone from the levy of anti-dumping duty, when such goods are exempted from the basic customs duty.

(3) GSR No. 42(E) dated the 28th January, 1994 publishing the Customs House Agents Licensing (Amendment) Regulations, 1994. Placed in Library. *See* LT-5466|84.